

New Jersey's Commitment To Those Who Serve

Governor Christie Has Provided Support To Help New Jersey's Veterans Find Jobs & Transition To Civilian Life

Reinforcing his commitment to New Jersey's veterans, servicemembers, and their families, Governor Christie today signed A-2892, legislation that allows a military spouse who holds a teaching certificate in another state to apply for a temporary teaching certificate in New Jersey.

These and other Administration actions are responsive to the needs of servicemembers, veterans, and their families, who confront life-changing circumstances as they return or move to New Jersey. First Lady Michelle Obama's call to the National Governors Association in February 2013 asked chief executives throughout the country to take action to remove obstacles that impede veterans and their families from easily re-entering the workforce after leaving the military. Governor Christie's leadership on these issues has put New Jersey in a strong position to help veterans and their families.

CHRISTIE ADMINISTRATION HAS A RECORD OF INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES

Governor Christie already has signed legislation that assists servicemembers, veterans, and their families, including:

Requiring Professional Boards To Provide Waivers Or Exemptions For Licensure For Veterans. Governor Christie signed A-2882 into law in May 2013, which requires a professional or occupational board that issues a license or certification to give credit toward its requirements for licensure or certification for training, education, or experience received by an applicant while serving as a member of the Armed Forces.

Giving Qualified Servicemembers And Veterans A Clear Path To Obtaining A Commercial Driver's License (CDL). In 2011, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration finalized the Commercial Learner's Permit rule, which enables servicemembers or veterans with two years of safe driving experience in military equivalents of commercial motor vehicles to be eligible for a waiver of the CDL skills test. Governor Christie signed A-2555 into law in May 2013, making New Jersey the 35th state to permit a waiver of the CDL skills test for certain applicants with military experience in operating commercial motor vehicles.

Allowing Qualified Military Spouses to Practice Nursing. Governor Christie signed A-2889 into law in December 2012, which directs the New Jersey Board of Nursing to establish criteria for the issuance of a temporary courtesy license to practice nursing to a nonresident military spouse so that the nonresident military spouse may lawfully practice nursing in the State on a temporary basis.

Today, Governor Christie also signed Executive Order No. 134, which creates the "New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force." The five-person task force is responsible for issuing recommendations that will preserve, enhance, and strengthen New Jersey's military installations, which contribute billions of dollars to the state economy and provide thousands of jobs.

GOVERNOR CHRISTIE INTRODUCING FIVE NEW PROPOSALS TO ASSIST SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, & THEIR FAMILIES

In addition to taking action today, Governor Christie is putting forward five new proposals, including:

Assisting Veterans In Becoming Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The Christie Administration is proposing legislation to assist veterans with military training and experience as EMTs in becoming EMT certified in New Jersey.

Extending The Validity Of Professional Licenses. Current New Jersey law states that a professional or occupational license shall not expire while the licensee is an active member of the Armed Forces of the United States and that the license

shall be extended for up to 120 days after his or her return from active service. The Christie Administration is proposing legislation to extend that period from 120 days to one year.

Making It Easier For Servicemembers and Veterans To Obtain Academic Credit. The Christie Administration is proposing legislation that authorizes and encourages colleges and universities to provide academic credit for military education and training.

Helping Servicemembers And Veterans Suffering From Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The Christie Administration is proposing legislation to create a PTSD Study Commission to determine how New Jersey can better assist servicemembers and veterans with PTSD.

Expansion Of The Definition Of “Veteran” Under The Civil Service Act. The Christie Administration is proposing legislation to expand the definition of “veteran” under the Civil Service Act, in order to allow more honorably discharged servicemembers to be eligible for veteran preference when applying for civil service jobs.